GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS. Secrt. II-16—55,006—8-9-53.

Agri (1954) Department.

Endorsement
D.O.
Memorandum
Lodged

Letter No. 60348 CI/54

Dated 16-8-1954

Passed
Ks
3-9-54

FURTHER PAPERS.

Department.	Number.	Series.	Date.
Cattle wealth of the west-coast of South-India — Suggestions for improvement.			

M. R. H. Punja.

MULKI,
SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT.

Date 30 - 4 - 1954.

To

The Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry,
Government of Madras,

UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
7-MAY 1954
AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

DEPUTY SECRETARY
7-MAY 1954
AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Sir,

I was one of the representatives from the Madras State for the 6th All India Cattle Breeder's Conference held at Bahadurgarh, Panjab, on the 27th and 28th March 1954. Enclosed you will please find copy of my letter dated 24-3-1954 addressed to the Secretary, All India Cattle Show Committee, New Delhi, wherein I have tried to give some suggestions to improve the Cattle Wealth in the West Coast. Could you please see how best the suggestions could be implemented?

I have suggested in the above referred letter the opening of Salvage Depots to rear Dry Cattle. I would like to suggest to the Government that a Salvage Depot may be opened at Padubidri of Udipi Taluq in our District. Padubidri is on the Coast Road, almost equidistant from the main Taluq Centres of the District, viz. Mangalore, Udipi and Karkal. Communication will also be easy hereafter, as we understand that the necessary funds has been sanctioned by the Central Government for the construction of 3 bridges over Pavenje, Mulki and Udiyavar rivers on the coast.

I request you to kindly take necessary steps to open a Salvage Depot at Padubidri.

Yours faithfully,

M R H Punja

60348

New Delhi,
24th March, 19[illegible]

From

I. R. H. Punja,
Mulki, South Kanara District,
Madras State.

To

The Secretary,
All India Cattle Show Committee,
Ministry for Agriculture,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Sir,

Sub: Cattle Wealth - In the West Coast of South India - Suggestions for improvement.

I am from South Kanara District of the Madras State, one of the representatives to the 6th All India Cattle Breeders' Conference and the 12th All India Cattle Show, which were declared opened yesterday by Dr. Punjabrao S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture. I am much impressed with the grand arrangements you have made and at the keen interest showed by the Villagers in the Cattle Show. I am sure, this Cattle Show will surely benefit the Rural population.

I would like to place before you some of our problems in respect of the cattle wealth of the West coast of South India, area referred to extends from the western ghats to the sea - East to West, and from Cape Comorin to Bombay - South to North. In this area there is heavy rainfall, ranging from 100 to 150 inches a year. This soil is not rich due to erosion. Cattle in this area are generally stunted and are of an inferior variety. Our requirements are mostly met from the cattle imported from the highlands of Mysore State and from the plains of Tamil Nad. Milk position in this area is very unsatisfactory and per capital consumption of milk does not compare favourably with the rest of India. If the breed is improved, there will be no need of importing such large numbers. The present import to my district of South Kanara being 15,000 heads of cattle per year.

Reasons for unsatisfactory breed:-

1. Lack of Fodder:- In the district, there are very few pasture grounds. Green grass is available only four months of the year. During the rest of the year, cattle will have to be fed upon hey of the paddy. It is very poor in its nutritive value. As such, as a condition precedent to the improving the breed it is absolutely necessary that the Government should encourage and popularise:-

a) Extensive pasture grounds.

b) Increasing utilisation of silage.

c) Popularising Gunny Grass and other Fodders.

d) Careful and extensive rearing of fodder in the malenad Area (At the foot of the Western Ghats) where there are extensive fallow lands and plenty of water supply. A definite plan for the development of the pasture of the area must be drawn up and implemented.

2. Improving the Breed of the Cattle:- Our main requirement will be the He and She Buffaloes. Murrah Buffaloe as got a great feature in the area. Experiments in the Govt. Cattle Farm at Koila in my District has shown that Murrah breed can adjust itself to the local conditions and give the optimum result. Each village should have a Stud Bull (Buffalo) and care should be taken that breed is selective. Local Boards and Panchayat Boards should be compelled to maintain at least the Stud Bull (Buffalo) in each village. Since, however, so many bulls can not be made available, at least the 'Key Village Scheme' should be pursued with greater vigour.

3. Salvage Depots:- A good portion of our cattle wealth is neglected in the Towns. Required care and attention is not given once a cow or a she-buffalo becomes dry. Their maintenance in the Towns will be very costly. Hence, Govt must encourage the opening of salvage depots in as many centres as possible. Reasonable charges can be levied.

Planned and vigorous attempt may be required to achieve the above. In view of the facts placed above, I wish to place the following resolution for adoption:-

> Earnest attempt should be made to improve the quality of cattle and the means of their proper maintenance in the heavy rainfall areas of the country.

Yours faithfully,

Copy to: The Director of Animal Husbandry,
Government of Madras,
Madras.

Copy to: The Director of Veterinary Services,
Government of Bombay,
Bombay.

Agri CT

End No 60353 C1/54-2 Date 8-5-54

Referred to the D A.H.
urgent
for remarks.
8.5.54.

8.5.54